A

LETTER

To the

Moſt Illuſtrious Lord,

The

Count of Hohenlo,

One of the Imperial Generals.

Written by a Gentleman in the Army of Count *Serini* before *Canisa*.

Concerning the RENEGADES amongſt the TURKS.

Put into Engliſh by a Perſon of Quality.

With Allowance, *June* 10. 1664.

ROGER LE STRANGE.

LONDON,
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My LORD,

SInce your generous Humor leads you to oblige without either hope of desire of a return, finding my self in the number of those whose obligations can never be cancelled. I have endeavoured, by this paper *Mercury* to testifie to your Lordship how willingly I would catch at any opportunity to shew my self grateful, though I cannot quit scores. I remember when I had last the honour of your converse, you were lamenting the fate of Christendome, that nothing should be so destructive of her interest, as a sort of people that falling into the hands of Infidels, either through cowardize, or ambition quit the reverence they owe to the blessed *Iesus*, and renounce a Religion as glorious in its Author, as eternal in its Verity, and surely the complaint was so just, that I dare say upon the strictest enquiry into the many Enemies that continually watch for the ruine of *Europe*, we shall finde no such Arguses as the Renegades, who having once become banquerout in Religion, account it glorious to shew their passion for their new embraced impieties, and in their hatred to their once fellow Christians, outvie ever natural *Turks*. The truth of this I have sufficiently experimented since my coming before *Canisia*, in which place a considerable number of these monsters are amongst some of the prisoners we have taken, I have met with here and there one of good judgement in affairs, who have assured me that the most considerable persons, and such as are able to give Christianity the most deadly blow are the Renegades now in pay with the *Turk*; *Italians*, *French*, *Germans*, *Spaniards*,

Spaniards, Engliſh, &c. who being well skill'd in the military part of the Mathematicks (of which, and all other Species of good Learning the Turks are wholly ignorant) have ever the charge of the Artillery, are the Dæmons that ſhew them the Modern way of attaquing places, and the neweſt mode of regulating Armies amongſt us, and indeed teach them all the Warlike Inventions which the moſt refined Wits have ſtudied and happily brought to perfection: Nay one of them in purſuance of a large diſcourſe he made me of the damage and injuries theſe Vipers do to Chriſtendome, did not ſtick to affirm, that a Renegade in high eſteem with this Prime Viſier, was the grand Springe that put the Turks in motion now againſt the Emperour; and (beſides the allegation of the differences Chriſtian Princes foment amongſt themſelves) by other arguments more pleaſing to the Turkiſh Guſto, pleaded the Neceſſity in point of Honour, and Facility in point of Succeſs, if the War were once commenced. Neither is it, my Lord incredible, that the Turk with ſo great a power ſhould like a flood come in upon us at the perſwaſions of theſe kinde of men; for upon the ſame account he formerly undertook ſuch expeditions. Sultan *Soliman* would rather have contented himſelf with the delights of his Seraglio, then ever attempted to beſiege *Malta* with ſuch a numerous Army, had not the charms of the Renegade *Pjali* puſht him upon that deſigne. Yea *Mahomet* the ſecond would not have beſieged *Rhodes* (where it pleaſed God to ſignalize the bravery of the Chriſtians in raiſing that ſiege) had not the Renegades perſwaded him, and in particular one *Anthony Meligabi* a Native

a Native of that very Iſle, the perſile whereof he gave to the Sultan: And I muſt needs ſay, they have rendred the *Ottoman* Family and Empire ſo many meritorious ſervices, that a great part of their Grandeur muſt be acknowledged the effect of their Counſel and Courage. I ſhall take liberty to look back into former times and give your moſt Excellent Lordſhip a ſummary account of their Enterprizes. I will beginne with *Ibraim Baſſa*, ſo fatal to our *Hungary*. This grand Perſonage being a Child of Tribute; (for the *Turk* all over his Dominions, takes one in three from the Chriſtians) was a Native of *Parga*, a Village of *Greece*, betweene the City of St. *Maur* and *Corfeu*; and being a youth of a comly preſence and noble ſpirit, was ſent to the Service of *Solyman* the Second in the life of his Father *Selim*; this young Prince being then at *Adrinopolis*: the *Turkiſh* Emperours having a Cuſtome to bring up their Children out of the *Seraglio*, and *Briantine* Port whether they are never brought, untill the deceaſe of their Father. *Ibraim* grew not ſo faſt in years, as he towred up in the favour of *Solyman*; and ſeemed to be the Soul, that gave life and motion to this Prince, who no ſooner mounted the Emperial Throne, but he heaped ſo many honours and favours upon this Creature of his, that the world might eaſily judge, he intended him for that *Coloſſe*, on whoſe ſhoulders he reſolved to lay the burden of that vaſt State: Now he is Grand Vizier, and Lievtenant General of the Empire; who being a great Souldier, and incomparable Stateſman, put his Maſter upon thoſe heroick actions that made our *Hungary* and the Iſle of *Rhodes*, the juſt ſubjects of his

his Magnificent triumphs. To whose courage doe the *Turks* owe the Cities and Kingdomes of *Tunis* and *Algier*, but to *Ariadeno Barbaroſſa* a Greek Renegade and Native of *Metelin*? and who ſo bravely defended the City of *Algier* in the year 1541. when the glorious Emperour *Charles* V. beſieged it, but *Aſſan Aga* a Native of *Sardignia*? It was cloſe begirt by Sea and Land with a potent Army, and yet he had the fortune to repel all the Impreſſions made by ſo many excellent Cavaliers, and ſee them ſent to their laſt home. I might here mention that famous Captain *Scipio Cigale*, ſon of the Viſcount *Cigale*, who paſſing out of *Sicily* into *Spain*, was taken priſoner, and carried to *Conſtantinople*; where renouncing his Religion, he grew into ſo great eſteem with the Sultan, that he raiſed him to the Dignity of a Baſſa, and made him General of divers great Armies, with which he enlarged the *Ottoman* Territories, and his own Reputation. But I ſhall content my ſelf with the Actions and Fortunes of that great Renegade *Naſuff*, ſo famous in this Century, and nigher your Lordſhips memory; this *Naſuff* was the ſon of a Greek Prieſt about *Salonica*, who being brought young to *Conſtantinople*, ſo well managed his Fortune that at 25 years of Age he was employed in the overſeeing a Moſque, which the Sultaneſs cauſed to be built, and having fortunately performed that office, by her had the charge of the Seraglio given him, and all her domeſtick affairs: But here he ſtopt not, for being the childe of Fortune, and deſtined to the higheſt Honours and Employs, ſhe quickly brought him to the knowledge of Sultan *Hohmet* the firſt, who from Offices

in

in his Seraglio, advanced him to be Baſſa of *Aleppo*, and dignified him with the Government of *Meſopotamia*; yea the Emperour finding him to be one of a deſigning ſpirit, & ambitious to undertake great things, after the death of *Serdar* Baſſa, gave him his Eſtate, and made him grand Vizier; and that he might have opportunity to ſhew his addreſs and courage in Military expeditions, made him General of his Army againſt the Perſians, who were ſo beaten by him, that they were enforced to ſue for a Peace as diſhonourable to themſelves, as advantagious to the Turks. Thus encircled with the beams of glory and honour, he enters *Conſtantinople*, receiving the plaudit of the Grandees of the Port; and as a further acceſſion to his felicities, one of the Sultans daughters in marriage; but in fine, this Ingrate hoping to make himſelf Soveraign of *Meſopotamia*, in reward of his perfidiouſneſs had all his greatneſs choaked with a Bow-ſtring. Thus my Lord, I have given you ſome ſmall remarques of the ſervices formerly perform'd by theſe Renegades to the *Ottoman* Empire, and can we think they are leſs active now? No, no, the ſame maximes that lead them in the laſt Age to the proſecution of the moſt infamous deſigns, ſurvive in the breaſts of theſe, who conſcious to themſelves of the higheſt crimes, think there is no ſafety but in continuing to be ſtill worſe. We had been maſters of *Caniſia* before now, had theſe ſerpents left their hiſſing, and continual ſollicitings to endure the utmoſt extremity rather then yeild; yea the moſt Intelligent perſons I can any where encounter aſſure me, the laſt year the Turks had not been ſo cruel where they came, had not theſe devils (like ſo many Mufties)

Mufties) perſwaded the natural Turks (and for that no great ſtore of Rhetorick was requiſite) that Chriſtians were the beſt Victimes they could offer up to their Prophet *Mahomet*. The truth is, that Impoſtor having taught in his Alchoran that his Law was to be planted with Sword in hand, there are no ſuch people in the world to put that doctrine in practiſe as theſe Renegades, who having quitted a Religion innocent and pure, and ſuch as bids the Sword to be ſheathed; are the readieſt to commit all kind of cruelties and murders, having a religious pretence to juſtifie them: So that (my Lord) it will concern all Chriſtian Princes to watch narrowly theſe *Phaetons*, that have already fired ſo great a part of Chriſtendom, and will undoubtedly endeavour to proceed further, if by ſevere animadverſions they be not frighted from joyning with thoſe profeſt enemies of Chriſtianity; for it is certain, many of theſe Renegades now in Command, are ſuch as voluntarily and at years of diſcretion eſpouſed that Intereſt. To conclude, That God Almighty would favourably ſhine on the Empire, and give all Chriſtian Monarchs a reſolution to combine againſt the common Enemy, and amongſt the many brave perſons that fight under the Banner of the Croſs, preſerve your Excellency, ſhall be the prayer of

From *Canſia*, *May*, 15th *Stil. Nov.* 1664.

Moſt Illuſtrious Lord,
Your moſt humble and faithful Servant,
N. R. D.

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